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The CIA and ne

Adm. Stansfield Turner registered surprise last week when members of the American Society of Newspaper Editors responded negatively to his admission that he had approved of three instances in which the Central Intelligence Agency used journalists for secret intelligence operations.

York Times article as saying, "Isdon't understand why you think if' you accept an assignment from me that you are no longer free."

We are surprised at Admiral news of all nations be transmitted. Turner's surprise and at his naive and exchanged freely and credi-

The point, admiral, is not that a flourish on the journalist is surrendering his freedom by working as an intelligence agent. It is that any journalist who permits such misuse of his profession is placing the entire profession—news gathering abroad it creates in the category of untrustworthy.

When an American journalist, o any other for that matter, is not trusted he cannot gain access to information freely. Any legitimate newsgathering operation could be viewed with suspicion because of the covert activity of a few in the profession_

True, in some hostile nations Turner was quoted in a New such as Iran and the Soviet Union, American newsmen are viewed with suspicion. And, in those nations, newsgathering is difficult.

It is important to the world that bly Otherwise, propaganda will

> Newsmen must remain credible and apart from any intelligence operations. Not only does such covert activity by journalists hamper doubts among readers at home.